

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-10

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 5172

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UNCLAS USNATO 1615

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, ETRD, EMAE, NATO

SUBJ: ECONADS: FRG REPRESENTATION REGARDING US INTRODUCTION OF
NEW STANDARDIZATION SYSTEM FOR BOLTS AND NUTS (OPTIONAL FASTENERS
METRIC SYSTEM)

1. AT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING MARCH 20, FRG ECONAD READ
AND DISTRIBUTED STATEMENT (PARA 3 BELOW) EXPRESSING CONCERN WITH
EFFORTS OF US INDUSTRY TO INTRODUCE, AS PART OF CONVERSION TO
METRIC SYSTEM, A NEW STANDARDIZED SYSTEM FOR BOLTS AND NUTS,
OPTIMAL FASTENERS METRIC SYSTEM (OFMS). FRG STATEMENT POINTS UP
DISADVANTAGES OF SYSTEM AS AN OBSTACLE TO TRADE AND AS A DE-
STANDARDIZATION MOVE IN NATO FRAMEWORK. STATEMENT CALLS ON OTHER
DELEGATIONS TO TAKE MATTER UP WITH US.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE FOR REPLY IN ECONOMIC COMMITTEE.

3. TEXT OF FRG STATEMENT: QUOTE:

SUBJECT: STANDARDIZATION/CONVERSION TO THE METRIC SYSTEM
IN THE USA;
INTROCUCTION OF A NEW STANDARDIZATION SYSTEM FOR
UNCLASSIFIED

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BOLTS AND NUTS (OPTIMAL FASTENERS METRIC SYSTEM)

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY HAS NOTED WITH CONCERN
EFFORTS OF THE US INDUSTRY TO INTRODUCE, AS PART OF THE

CONVERSION TO THE METRIC SYSTEM, A NEW STANDARDIZATION SYSTEM FOR BOLTS AND NUTS, THE SO-CALLED OPTIMAL FASTENERS METRIC SYSTEM - OFMS. THE INTRODUCTION OF THE OFMS WOULD RENDER FUTILE THE YEAR-LONG EFFORTS BY THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION ORGANIZATION (ISO) TO ESTABLISH WORLDWIDE STANDARDS IN THIS FIELD.

OBVIOUS DISADVANTAGES WOULD BE:

- OBSTACLES IN THE TRADE BETWEEN THE WESTERN INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS,

- DOUBLE AND THEREFORE EXPENSIVE STORAGE DURING EXTENDED TRANSITION PERIODS,

- A DE-STANDARDIZATION EFFECT WITHIN NATO WHICH WOULD BE CONTRADICTORY IN PARTICULAR TO THE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE STANDARDIZATION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE AND WOULD MAKE LOGISTICS MORE DIFFICULT.

DELEGATIONS ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE UP THIS MATTER IN ORDER TO COPE WITH THE DIFFICULTIES MENTIONED ABOVE.
UNQUOTE

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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